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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

Accession No. **GNX-388**

Date Rec'd SA **15 July 46**

To	Room No.	Date		Officer's Initials	Comments
		Rec'd	Fwd'd		
1. FBV	2166	22h ag		<i>[initials]</i>	Duplicate retained ER Checked ER 7/23 Memo & Stat 8-2 ONY ER.
2. <i>OD</i>			25/7 ag	<i>[initials]</i>	<i>[circled]</i> HUSAYN, NAJJ <i>AMIN</i>
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Each comment should be numbered to correspond with number in To column.
A line should be drawn across sheet under each comment.
Officer Designations should be used in To column.
Each Officer should initial (check mark insufficient) before further routing.
Action desired or action taken should be indicated in Comments column.
Routing sheet should always be returned to Registry.
For Officer Designations see separate sheet.

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AL-KHAYMA, NAJJ, AMIN

OFFICE OF ORIGIN: Beirut LOCAL STATION FILE NO: 611-386

REPORT MADE AT: : DATE: : PERIOD COVERED: : MADE BY:
Beirut : 27/6/46 : ----- : HQ/1

SUBJECT: The Mufti in Syria

REFERENCE: none

STATUS: closed

SOURCE: Mr. Frank Brown

SYNOPSIS:

The Mufti actually came to Damascus at the time of the Bludan Conference, by French plane. AZZAH Pasha persuaded him that it was not wise to allow his presence in Syria to be known; King/VAHID agreed to welcome the Mufti to Egypt. ALKI, former Minister of National Defence, was only Syrian official to know of Mufti's arrival, and was sacked because of his failure to tell his colleagues of his dealings with the French in the affair.

EVALUATION: see report

APPROVED BY: HQ/1

DISTRIBUTION:

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C.S. MOUL

MA-300
June 27, 1946

The Lufti in Syria

1. Mr. Frank Brown, former director of OWI, now employed by Syrian Government as director of antiquities, is the source of the following information. He obtained his story first from Abu-l Mada al-YAFI, legal advisor to the Department of Antiquities, and he obtained corroboration later from Ahmed SARABATI, now Minister of Defense, and from Isam HADDAI of President QUWATLI's secretariat.

2. The Lufti, Haj Amin al-Husseini was flown directly from Paris to Damascus on a French plane by the French. The trip of a bogus Lufti from Paris to Cairo by TMA was to divert attention from French hand in the enterprise.

3. Syrian who arranged the escape was Habin al-AZMI, then Minister of National Defense. Al-AZMI was, until transfer of Troupes Speciales from French to Syrian command, the highest ranking Syrian officer in the French army.

4. The Lufti, with beard shaved off, arrived May 29 at Damascus' Lesse Airport where he was met by AZMI. AZMI took the Lufti to his house.

5. At the start of the HADDAI Conference of the Arab League, the Lufti sent for Abu-l Mada al-YAFI, an old friend, and revealed his identity. Al-YAFI thereupon went to Haddan and told President QUWATLI; President had Lufti brought to ZEHDAI, village adjoining HADDAI, and at ZEHDAI Lufti met principal Arab leaders.

6. Abdul-Rahman Azzah Pasha had a long talk with the Lufti and convinced him it would not be wise at that stage to have his name associated with the Arab League Council.

7. Azzah then suggested Egypt as an asylum. King FAROUK agreed and sent his private plane to bring Lufti to al-AZASS. The story that Lufti surprised King FAROUK by unexpected arrival is false.

8. AZMI was compelled to resign his post in Syrian cabinet because he had not taken his colleagues into his confidence in arranging escape of Lufti. Syrians were glad to have Lufti arrive -- but were indignant that AZMI should have had clandestine dealings with French.

9. Brown states he believes details reported above. Writer thinks them quite probable.